

The Times-Dispatch

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From June 1st the price of The Times-Dispatch, delivered by carrier within the corporate limits of Richmond and Manchester, is 12 cents per week, or 50 cents per calendar month.

Persons leaving the city for the summer should order The Times-Dispatch mailed to them. Price, 50 cents per month.

THE SERBIAN REVOLUTION.

The news from Serbia is indeed startling. Night before last a military revolution broke out, and the troops, under the lead of an officer, surrounded the palace, assassinated King Alexander, Queen Draga, the Queen's sister, the King's brother, and several of the King's ministers. Prince Karageorgevitch was then proclaimed King, and the people generally seemed to rejoice in the result.

Serbia is a small kingdom, consisting of sixteen provinces, and comprising an area of 19,000 square miles, with a population of about 2,600,000. It is about half the size of Virginia. It is in the main an agricultural country, and most of its trade is in agricultural products. From the beginning of the Christian era it has been chiefly noted for its revolutions. It has also had some outside wars—one with Turkey, in 1876. In this war the Serbians were joined by numerous Russian volunteers, but they were defeated, and peace conditions were signed in 1877. A month later war broke out between Russia and Turkey broke out, and, of course, Serbia's sympathies were with Russia, but she remained neutral until the fate of the war had been practically decided by the fall of Plevna. The recognition of Serbia's independence and an important increase of its territory to the southward, demanded by Russia at the close of the war, was agreed to by the Berlin Congress in 1878.

In 1885 Serbia went to war with Bulgaria, and was again unsuccessful, but on the intervention of the great powers a treaty of peace was signed in the same year.

On March 6th, 1889, King Milan abdicated in favor of his son, Alexander, then a child of thirteen. For several years the government was carried on in the name of Alexander by two regents. These in 1891 expelled from the kingdom the Queen Mother, who had been divorced by Milan.

Alexander became King in 1893, and promulgated a new constitution on April 11, 1901. In that year there were numerous political changes, and the seeds of the latest revolution, by which the King lost his life, were sown. This constitution was liberal, although in many points the power of the King was increased, but the King's right of decrees was much curtailed. Later on this constitution was suspended, and that seems to have given rise to the recent trouble. As soon as the King was killed, however, a proclamation was made by the ministry, declaring that from that day the constitution of April 6th, 1901, came into force.

It seems to Americans a terrible thing for the ruler of a nation and his wife thus to have been put to the sword, but the King and Queen were doubtless responsible for their own undoing. The Queen, before her marriage (in 1900), was lady-in-waiting to Queen Natalie, and, while she was beautiful, her reputation was none too good. The marriage was violently opposed, and resulted in the resignation of the Prime Minister and ex-King Milan, commander of the Serbian forces. Since then there has been much scandal at court, and it is said that the reign of the King and Queen was characterized by the greatest immorality in royal circles.

ENGLAND'S COLONIAL SECRETARY.

As England's Colonial Secretary, Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, is very much in the public eye at this moment, an article in the June number of the North American Review, by Rt. Hon. Lord Coleridge has a peculiar interest for American readers. Lord Coleridge is bitterly opposed, politically, to Mr. Chamberlain, but he deals with him in fairness, and gives a most interesting sketch of his career.

In yesterday's paper we referred to Mr. Chamberlain as a versatile politician. Lord Coleridge in his sketch abundantly verifies that designation.

His public life began in the municipality of Birmingham, and in 1873 he became Mayor of that city, serving for three years. He supplied the town with municipal water and gas, remodeled the drainage system, cleared out the slums, and accomplished many reforms. At this time he was an advanced Radical. He early showed that he was a man of strong mind and of courage, and while he was loyal to his friends, he made no compromise with his enemies. He was an intense partisan and always gave preference to the men of his own political views.

In 1876 he became a member of the House of Commons as a Liberal, and was the champion from the start of Home Rule for Ireland. He naturally became associated with Mr. Gladstone, and as he was a fine speaker he easily took a leading part in Parliament. If he had been an American he would have been a strong Democrat, for he was opposed to imperialism on the one hand, and in favor of local self-government on the other. He was a more advanced champion of Home Rule than Mr. Gladstone, for Mr. Chamberlain could not but be an extremist in any cause that he advocated. He was in favor of disestablishment, universal non-denominational education, manhood suffrage, equal electoral districts, local option, one man, one vote, and the abolition of the House of Lords as a legislative body. He vigorously denounced the government for its attitude toward Ireland, declaring that its policy was "a system founded on the bayonets of soldiers encamped permanently as in a hostile country, and as completely centralized and bureaucratic as that which Russia governed Poland, or as that which prevailed in Venice under the Austrian rule."

But, strangely enough, when the test came, when Mr. Gladstone brought forth his Home Rule bill, seventy Liberals under the titular leadership of Mr. Harcourt, but as Lord Coleridge says, under the real leadership of Mr. Chamberlain, voted against the bill and killed it. Mr. Chamberlain subsequently gave his support to the Conservatives and "burnt one by one the gods which he had adored." Lord Coleridge declares that he opposed every reform which he had advocated, with two exceptions. Through his influence the Conservatives carried free education, and he absented himself whenever the Conservatives had to support the Established Church.

By and by, when he became Colonial Secretary, he issued a circular to the colonies, "which seemed to point," said Lord Coleridge, "in the direction of a suggestion for free trade with the empire and protection against the rest of the world; significant of a weakening conviction on the part of the old colleague of Mr. Bright in the truth of the doctrine of free trade."

We have not the space to follow Mr. Chamberlain through the war in South Africa, in which again he showed that his Democratic principles had largely changed, and it is not surprising that he came out of that war a Protectionist, and that he has but recently endeavored to "ram that doctrine down the throats of the English people," as the politicians say.

But thanks to the conservatism of England he failed. In the nick of time Mr. Balfour came to the rescue and saved Mr. Chamberlain from a complete rout, but his fight for the tariff was none the less a failure. England has prospered under free trade, and there is no occasion for her to depart from the traditions.

BOOTH AND NEY.

The recent sensational story about John Wilkes Booth recalls the story of Marshal Ney, of France.

Soon after the downfall of Napoleon many French refugees, followers of his, came to America and settled near Monmouth, N. J. Somewhere about the year 1818, or 1820, Mr. Wilfred Turner, the grandfather of the present Lieutenant-Governor of North Carolina, and a Mr. Houston, and other prominent citizens of Ireton, N. C., established at Turner's Mills an old time "high school." They advertised in northern papers for an expert teacher, and in response a Frenchman, who gave his name as Peter Stuart Ney, reached Turner's Mills by horseback, having ridden all the way from Monmouth, N. J. He was an accomplished gentleman, a scholar, and an expert penman. He was employed, and during the rest of his life taught school in that neighborhood. He became very popular not only with his scholars, but with the people generally. He was exceedingly reticent, though he early made it known that he belonged to Napoleon's grand army. Later he became very intimate with Mr. Turner and Mr. Houston, and once when the hinges of his tongue had been loosened by several extra drinks of brandy, he gave to these gentlemen a graphic account of the famous retreat from Moscow, and told how his soldiers tramped through the snow, went hungry, and were harassed by the Cossacks, and how they rallied and drove the Cossacks back and protected the wagon trains of Napoleon from day to day, and from night to night.

In this story he spoke of what he did, what his soldiers did and the commands and orders that he gave, &c., &c., thus leaving the impression that he was in command of the famous rear guard that all readers of history know was commanded by Marshal Ney. Moreover, this school teacher was in feature the very picture of Marshal Ney, and had a scar on his skull corresponding with that which Marshal Ney received in battle when he was shot down, and it was thought that he was killed. On another occasion when this school teacher had been drinking heavily and had fallen from his horse, two colored men went to him, raised him up and in an awkward manner got him on the horse's back again. He became indignant and kicking one of the darkies with all of his force, he said, "What do you miserable Africans mean by handling the Duke of Elchingen as though he were a sack of corn?"

When the Prince Imperial of France died thus blasting all hopes that the Napoleonic dynasty would ever be restored, Peter Stuart Ney destroyed a trunk filled with papers and manuscripts, and said to those who saw him make the bon-fire, that the Prince Imperial being dead, all his hopes were blasted, and those papers were of no further use, as he could never return to France, and that he cared not how soon death removed him from his sorrows. He commenced to drink heavily, and could not teach school for two weeks, and during this time he told several people that he was none other than Marshal Ney. The explanation he gave of his escape was that

which has been printed time and again to wit: that after he had been sentenced to death, in order to humiliate him all the more his own soldiers were appointed to shoot him down in the Garden of the Luxembourg. They aimed high, shot over him, and he feigned death, his body being immediately turned over to his relatives, who conveyed him as rapidly as possible to the coast, and he embarked on a ship to Charleston, S. C., where he landed in March, 1816. He went from there to Monmouth, N. J., remaining with the French colony for several years, and then went to North Carolina, as above stated.

Peter Stuart Ney died in 1846, and was buried at "Third Creek Meeting House," in Ireton county. Some years ago a Mr. Weston disinterred the remains to try to prove by the scar on the skull that the school teacher and the great Marshal of France was one and the same person. The proof was not satisfactory. However, Mr. Weston has written a book called "Historic Doubts as to the Execution of Marshal Ney." Twenty years ago we had a lengthy conversation with Mr. Wilfred Turner, Jr., and Mrs. Dalton, daughter of the Mr. Houston mentioned above, who as children were students in Ney's school. They firmly believe that Peter Stuart Ney was Marshal Michel Ney, of France.

It was rumored the other day that the recent slump in the stock market was due very largely to the fight between the Gould interests and the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. The story goes that soon after the death of the elder Gould, George Gould had an interview with J. P. Morgan, which was anything but pleasant, and that when he left Mr. Morgan's office he declared that he would never return, and that he forthwith made friends with Mr. Rockefeller. However, that may be, the fact is there has been a sharp fight for years between the Gould roads and the Pennsylvania, and the situation became most acute some time ago, when the Pennsylvania won its case against the Western Union Telegraph Company, one of Mr. Gould's properties, and cut down some of the Western Union poles.

Recently the Pennsylvania Road determined to sell \$5,000,000 of new stock, having first entered into an agreement with an underwriting syndicate to take at a stated price all the stock which the stockholders should not subscribe for. The story now goes that the Gould-Rockefeller combine has been endeavoring to force the Pennsylvania stock down to 120, with a view to forcing the syndicate to buy the new issue, then in turn to buy this large bulk of stock from the syndicate, and so practically to get control of the property.

Officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company say that they know nothing about this alleged coup of Mr. Gould's, and attach no importance to it, and it would appear from the sharp rally in stocks yesterday that the story is not true. It is inconceivable that sensible men with such large interests at stake would play such a desperate game at a time like this.

The Wilson News attempts to explain some recent events in its neighborhood in this way:

There is an unwritten law of justice and right that appeals to man's emotions more strongly than the cold written technicalities that so often defeat justice of its ends. And what here were seen the seeds that later gave birth to violence and mob law—Richmond Times-Dispatch.

We desire to inform our esteemed exchange that the above editorial quoted from the News has no reference to the recent event that happened in our town, but to recent events that happen almost daily elsewhere—Wilson News.

As "the recent event that happened in our town" was a lynching, we naturally supposed that some "references to allusions" were intended.

Business firms located in the low lying section of Richmond, and the low lying section of the city, have been advised to keep their heads above water since the James got his back up—Newport News Press.

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